THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 8th November 1947.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Collection of funds for a Tamil encyclopaedia.

* Q. 141.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any rules governing the conduct of public servants in regard to collection of funds even for public purposes, and, if so, what they are;

(*b*) whether these rules are applicable to holders of all offices under the Government including the Council of Ministers;

(*c*) whether the Government are aware that the Hon. Minister for Education is personally interesting himself in the collection of funds for a Tamil encyclopaedia;

(*d*) if the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, whether the action of the Hon. Minister has been considered by the Government to be in accordance with the spirit and letter of the rules framed for the conduct of public servants; and

(*e*) whether the Government have considered the desirability of members of the Government not associating themselves with any movement likely to embarrass them in the discharge of their public duties?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of Hon. the Premier):—" (*a*) the relevent rule governing the conduct of Government servants is subsidiary rule (1) of rule 6 of the Government Servants Conduct Rules and runs as follows: 'Except with the permission of the Government or of some authority empowered in this behalf by the Government, a Government servant is forbidden to take part in the collection of money for any public or local purpose. Permission will, on application, be accorded in all cases where the Government support the institution by way of grants or otherwise.'

" (*b*) The Government Servants Conduct Rules are applicable only to Government servants. Members of the Council of Ministers are not Government servants.

" (*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*d*) In view of the answer to clause (*b*), this question does not arise.

" (e) No. Members of the Government, i.e., Hon'ble Ministers may be expected not to associate themselves with movements likely to embarrass them in the discharge of their duties."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government do not consider sponsoring of movements which involve collection of subscriptions as activities which embarrass those who undertake it in the discharge of their duties? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It depends upon the nature of the collections and the funds for which they are collected."

Prices of pulses in this Province.

* *Q.* 142.—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the prices were fixed for green, red and blackgrams in the month of May 1947;

(*b*) whether the Government have revised the prices after the lapse of three months;

(*c*) if not, why not;

(*d*) whether the Government have got information about the prices of these pulses in ither provinces and the states;

(*e*) whether there is a great disparity between the prices they have fixed for the districts and the prices prevailing in other provinces and the states;

(*f*) what is the quantity of these grams that are imported into various deficit districts (districtwar) and at what prices are they imported from outside the Madras Presidency;

(*g*) what are the prices at which the concerned District Collectors have issued sale orders for imports referred to in clause (*f*);

(*h*) whether the Government are issuing permits for export of the various kinds of pulses from surplus districts to deficit districts; if so, how much has been exported since June 1947;

(*i*) whether the Government have received representations that pulses are getting deteriorated on account of their not being allowed to be exported to deficit districts;

(*j*) if so, what action they have taken on such representations;

(*k*) whether the Hon. Minister is aware that the District Collector, Kistna, has fixed Rs. 14-11-0 for a maund of blackgram while the prevailing market-rate in the district is Rs. 23 a maund as the sales of the Masulipatam and Gudivada Co-operative Stores and Mudunooru P.C.C. Society disclose; and

(*l*) in view of this whether the Government propose to instruct the District Collector, Kistna, to fix the export rate of blackgram on the basis of the prevailing rate in the district?